

"Get Right With God"

The caption of this paragraph is a slogan sometimes used by itinerant evangelists. It's a good motto, even if a bit slangy. There is another motto, a much older one, which reads like this: "The voice of the people is the voice of God." Well, the voice of the people is not the voice of God, but it is the only deity which some people seem to fear, and Populi is the only god they know. The members of the American congress have heard from the people now, and they know what to do. One thing to do is to repeal that infamous and absurd postal law zone—repeal it in toto, and repeal it at once. It has worked a needless harshness on every newspaper in the United States. The Democratic Congress should repeal this silly enactment at the short session. They should not wait for the Republicans to do it. The Democratic party can get a worse drubbing in 1920 than it received in 1918. That is not probable, but it is at least conceivable.—Missouri Message.

Let Them Stay

Over 100 draft evaders, many of them from wealthy families of the north and east who fled to Mexico when the United States passed the draft law are waiting along the border of Texas for an opportunity to cross, according to information reaching officers at Dallas, Texas. Some have written to officials that they are ready and willing to return to the United States and enter services.

That there will be no leniency in dealing with these evaders is indicated in statements made by local officials. They declare that all persons who fled to Mexico to evade military duties must remain in that country or face the full consequences of the act. This they declare means such persons will be compelled to serve long terms in Federal prisons.

All points along the border are being watched.

As a friend and admirer of the late Napoleon Bonaparte, we demand that thoughtless editorial writers cease classing him with the late Kaiser. Napoleon went forth to do or die with his legions. With them he suffered the hardships and privations of camp life and with them he faced the enemy on every battlefield. History records his heroic deed at Lodi, where, after all efforts to stem the tide had failed, he seized the flag and led a desperate but victorious charge. And when the decisive battle of his career was fought, Napoleon was with his men, leading and directing their assaults. All this was quite in contrast to the Kaiser, who sent millions of other men's sons to their death but kept himself and his own sons in places of safety through it all, and finally deserting in the face of danger and taking refuge behind the skirts of Holland. Really, the man who mentions Napoleon and Wilhelm the same day should be sued for slander.—Paris Appeal.

England is discussing the problem of deporting all enemy aliens. Those in authority over there say if people who partook of their hospitality during the great war do not think enough of their country to become citizens of it they should go where their hearts are. And we say, Amen! If a person comes to America and does not think enough of this country to become a working citizen, let him go back where he belongs. We have seen and felt the effects of these underhand brigands. Now let's give them what is coming to them.

The fellow who has been writing the "to Hell mit der Kaiser" poetry may now rest from his labors and start going to Sunday School again.

League of Nations

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat offers a substantial contribution to the general fund of misinformation in regard to the proposed League of Nations by stating that the idea was first suggested by Theodore Roosevelt in 1910. But, in point of fact, the idea was first suggested (in modern times) by Henry IV of France, the greatest and undoubtedly the best of the Bourbons. This was pointed out by the Message several weeks ago. The suggestion, therefore, was made about three hundred years before Roosevelt was born, and was a fruit of that period of idealism known in literature as the Age of Shakespeare. Most probably the idea originated with King Henry's great minister, the illustrious Duke de Sully.

The divergent views prevailing in regard to the proposed League remind one very much of that famous poem entitled "The Three Blind Men and the Elephant." The proposition cannot be intelligently opposed or endorsed until something is known of its details.

What nations will compose the League?

What is to be the basis of representation?

Will each nation have one vote in shaping its policies?

What nation will be the head of the League?

Will there be a common fund out of which to meet the League's expenses?

Who will have the key to the treasury?

Are all controversies between the signatory powers to be decided by the League?

Will there be universal disarmament, or will there be a common army and navy—and if so, who will be in command?

What rights and powers are to be wholly reserved to the individual powers composing the League?

What kind of a tribunal is to administer the affairs of the League?

There are but a few of a hundred questions that could be reasonably asked by any intelligent and patriotic American before either giving unqualified assent or entering the lists of the opposition to the League.

In other words, we are unable to say, from any word which has escaped any of the principal proponents of the League, whether it is to be really a confederation of nations with some central governing authority in international matters, or merely a stuporous trade and arbitration treaty.

We are mindful alike of the failure of the Greek confederacies and of the modern idea of arbitration as a preventive of war. We believe absolutely in President Wilson's breadth of scholarship, in the purity of his designs and in the profundity of his statesmanship. We trust he may be able to find some way to safeguard the future of the world. We are determined to support rather than criticize him in his efforts to do so. But for all that, we are inclined to believe that the world's best assurance of peace during the next one hundred years will be no league or covenant, but the fairly general acknowledgment of the fact, learned from bitter experience that war is a thing never to be sought and by all honorable means to be avoided. The world for the present, at least, has had its fill of human blood.—Missouri Message.

"If thine enemy is hungry, feed him." All right, but give him corn bread and meatless days, and woolless socks, and sugarless days and coatless days for a long time to pay us back what we spent to lick him.

Eighty ears of corn were recently found stored away in a muskrat hole in Warren county. Possibly a case of hoarding for an advanced price.



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